

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-13 have been cancelled. Claims 14-18 are pending in this application.

SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

Claims 1-7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent 5,757,106). Claims 8-12 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Sato.

In response, Applicant has requested cancellation of claims 1-13 and entry of new claims 14-18.

New claim 14 incorporates much of the subject matter of canceled claim 1, but includes additional recitations that more clearly distinguish that claim over the teachings of references of record, especially with regard to Figures 11-13 of Sato. For example, claim 14 specifically recites the connections between the electrodes for at least two sections of the input region, substantially in accordance with that which is described in Applicant's Figures 1 and 2. As neither Sato nor any of the other references disclose or suggest such an arrangement, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 15 and 16 incorporate some the subject matter of certain of the canceled claims 2-12. As claims 15 and 16 are dependent on claim 14, they are allowable on that basis. Moreover, claims 15 and 16 include additional recitations that render those claims further distinct and nonobvious over the references of record. Accordingly, claims 15 and 16 should likewise be deemed allowable.

New claim 17 incorporates much of the subject matter of canceled claim 13, but includes additional recitations that more clearly distinguish that claim over the references of record, especially with regard to Figures 2-5 of Sato. For example, claim 17 specifically recites the connections between the electrodes for at least two sections of the input region, substantially in accordance with that which is described in Applicant's Figure 5. As neither Sato nor any of the other references disclose or suggest such an arrangement, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 17 is allowable.

Claim 18 is dependent on new claim 17, and thus allowable on that basis. Moreover, claim 18 includes additional recitations that render that claim further distinct and nonobvious over the references of record. Accordingly, claims 18 should likewise be deemed allowable.

Applicant notes that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendment. In particular, the language of new claims 14, 17, and 18 is fully supported by Applicant's specification (for claim 14, see pg. 8, line 22 – pg. 9, line 2; for claims 17 and 18, see pg. 11, line 31 – pg. 12, line 31).

Inasmuch as the preceding amendment fully distinguishes Applicant's claims over the references of record, and for the reasons stated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's agent by telephone if such communication may be helpful in the examination of this case. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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On June 4, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

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Respectfully submitted,

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